

FAITH Lutheran Church
Offering Christ-Centered Preschool and Childcare
4241 Williamson Road
P.O. Box 242
Bridgeport, MI 48722

Phone: 989-777-2600 Fax: 989-777-5069

E-Mail: faithluthchurch@yahoo.com Web: faithlutheranbridgeport.org

FOCUS ON FAITH
May 2024



MISSION STATEMENT: In responding to God's great love to us in Christ Jesus, FAITH Lutheran Church dedicates itself to the continual growth of Christ's Church in Bridgeport, in all of Michigan and the United States of America, and into all of the world through....

- Fellowshiping around the Gospel (*Acts 2:42*)
- Administering the Means of Grace (*1 Cor. 4:1*)
- Investing our time and talents (*2 Cor. 9:7, 8*)
- Teaching the Christian FAITH (*2 Tim. 2:2*)
- Helping those in need (*Matt. 25:40*)

Professional Staff:

Rev. Timothy Behnke, *Pastor*, 989-401-8537,

E-Mail: heiditim@netzero.com

Karlie Fournier, *Preschool and Childcare Director*, 989-777-2702

Barb Swanson, *Secretary*, 989-777-2600

Treasurer, Sandy Davis, 989-777-2600

Serving at FAITH

Elders: May 5 Dan Pavlicek
May 19 Bill Stroup

Altar Guild: Dorothy Dedyne, Mary Sylvester

Ushers:

May 5 Group 4
May 12 Group 4
May 19 Group 1
May 26 Group 1

Kidz' Word:

May 5 Archie Swanson
May 12 Doug Williams
May 19 Laurie Lisk
May 26 Doug Williams

Group 4

Dean Notter
Austin Notter
Ron Brush

Group 1

Ron Reinbold

Lector:

May 5 Don Christiansen
May 12 Laurie Lisk
May 19 Rachel Szaroletta
May 26 Don Christiansen

Greeters:

May 5	Shirley Lehman	Heidi Behnke
May 12	Diane Gubbins	Dearaine Gubbins
May 19	Alyse Notter	Kathy Jordan
May 26	Louise Davis	Rachel Szaroletta

The True Enemy.

In his April letter to pastors, President David Davis of the Michigan District talked about a new word he came across, enemyfication. Enemyfication is when we vilify those with whom we disagree. In other words, when we accuse others of being evil, an enemy, just because they hold a different opinion than we do. As he pointed out, this is the “air we breathe: in the United States. All we have to do is look at social media, the news agencies, the political parties or any place in our culture to see this happening. When this happens it eliminates any chance of discussion or compromise and causes division where it doesn’t necessarily need to be.

The sad thing is that this enemyfication has crept into the church as well as the culture. We can see non-believers as enemies rather than lost sheep and stop reaching out to them. We can see other Christian denominations as enemies rather than brothers and sisters in Christ and this can lead to animosity as well as end any chance of working together or learning from each other. This can even happen in our church family as we see those who might disagree with us on even minor things as an enemy or problem. This can lead to division in the church, hurt feelings and people no longer feeling welcome.

The reality is that people are not our enemies. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that “*we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*”

Our enemy is Satan and he delights when we make people our enemies. Also, even if someone is truly against us, Christ tells to “*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*” in Matthew 5:43. When we do this, we are fighting our true enemy, Satan as this is the last thing he would want us to do. He desires division, not fellowship. He desires animosity, not love. He desires grudges, not forgiveness.

So, I encourage all of us to stop looking at people as enemies, especially our sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us pray for one another, encourage one another, put the best construction on everything and truly love one another as Christ loves us. If we can do this, even if imperfectly, we will truly be different and the world will notice. Then, we will be built up and Christ will be glorified. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in us to bring this to truly happen in our midst.

--To God be the glory--

Pastor Tim Behnke



- 2 Donald Lehman
- 8 *Tristan Gubbins
- 9 Sandy Stroup
- 13 Andrea Notter
- 16 Austin Notter
- 17 Spencer Hoffmann
- 19 Keegan McNally
- 23 Thomas Pierce
- 26 Jennifer Spencer, Josh Bond
- 27 Gregg Dickhausen, *Damien Swanson
- 30 Mike Dickhausen

*children

Anniversaries:

- 9 Archie & Barb Swanson
- 13 Gary & Linda Gerken
- 20 Brian & Karen Leaym
- 21 Dean & Jill Notter
- 31 Brian & Roberta Fent, Robert & Patricia Flathau

If we have missed anyone or made an error please contact the church office.

Food Distribution: The next date for our Food Distribution is May 9. Please see Ed Gubbins if you have any questions.

Valley Lutheran High School is seeking applicants for a Facility and Grounds Coordinator. Ideal candidates would recognize how this position supports and furthers the ministry of Valley Lutheran High School and have experience with maintenance, custodial work, and groundskeeping. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Executive Director, Al Kaul, at akaul@vlhs.com by May 10, 2024. The position will begin in June.

VLHS is looking to fill two Athletic positions for the upcoming school year: - head Freshman volleyball coach - Pompon coach. If you are interested in either of these positions or know someone who is interested in taking on either of these roles, please send a resume and cover letter to Athletic Director, Tyler Yahn, at tyahn@vlhs.com.

The Historical Society of Bridgeport will hold its Spring Plant Exchange on Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5:00 - 6:00 pm., in the Bridgeport Historical Village, 6190 Dixie Highway, Bridgeport, next door to the Bridgeport Fire Department. Pot up the plants you want to share! Please label them with their names, sun or shade preferences, & watering preferences.

Saturday, May 11th 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



**Come enjoy an evening of Fun for
the whole family!**
Puzzle Contest!

Sign up sheet to enter the Cook Off or
Puzzle Contest is on the on the counter in
the Narthex.

Free Will Donations!
Proceeds are for the Alaska
Mission Team!



1) The Valley Lutheran Drama Department invites you to their spring production of 'Little Women'. Showings are nightly, May 2, 3, and 4th at 7 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$5/students, or \$24/family.

2) Valley Lutheran is excited to host the Concordia Vocal Jazz Choir (from Concordia, Nebraska) on Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. for the first ever concert in the VL Music Room! We invite you to hear this group at Valley on May 6th!

3) Summer Camps return to Valley Lutheran! Head to www.vlhs.com/camps to see this year's offerings and schedule and to sign-up! Camps are in June and include one-week, half-day offerings in sports, technology, and the arts. Contact Tasha Mulder, Summer Camp Coordinator, at tmulder@vlhs.com with any questions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR SOUGHT Church Extension Fund seeks qualified candidates for the position of IT Administrator. This position, which serves both CEF and the Michigan District, LCMS, performs a range of network and workstation duties for a combined office of 30-35 on-site and remote users. The position reports to and assists the CEF Assistant VP-Systems Manager in three main areas: network management, cyber-security management, and software administration. Opportunities for advancement exist. A complete position description is available on CEF's website: mi-cef.org/news. Applicants should mail or email a cover letter and resume no later than May 31, 2024 to: Ms. Kris Nowak – Executive Assistant; Church Extension Fund; 3773 Geddes Rd; Ann Arbor MI 48105, kris.nowak@mi-cef.org.

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is seeking applicants for an Assistant Business Manager. The position can be structured to be either full-time or part-time. This position assists the Vice President of Finance in human resources, business, financial, and legal affairs of the Michigan District. Position requirements include a minimum of a bachelor's degree in business with coursework in human resources, a minimum of five years' experience in the area of human resources and/or finance, and outstanding relationship building and communication skills. You can download a full job description [here](#). If interested, please mail your resumé to Mr. Chad Woltemath; Vice President of Finance; Michigan District, LCMS; 3773 Geddes Rd; Ann Arbor MI 48015 or email him at chad.woltemath@michigandistrict.org